

2005

Rivers Month Calendar for Rhode Island

***June is Rivers Month !** This calendar is prepared by the **Rhode Island Rivers Council** to provide you with the opportunity to sample events in and around the rivers of Rhode Island. Take this opportunity to invite your friends, family, local leaders, legislators, and/or a favorite reporter to clean up, paddle, protect, enjoy and celebrate your favorite rivers and streams.*

For more information on the RI Rivers Council and watershed organizations in RI, see the Rivers Council web page: <http://www.planning.state.ri.us/rivers/default.htm>

May through October – WATERSHED WATCH - The University of Rhode Island Watershed Watch Program (URIWW) is a statewide volunteer monitoring program. It focuses on providing current information on the water quality of surface water resources throughout Rhode Island, including lakes, ponds, reservoirs, rivers, streams and the marine environment. Monitoring occurs from May through October.

The heart of the program consists of weekly measurements taken by numerous trained volunteer monitors. The program emphasizes watershed scale monitoring because the water quality of a given body of water is a reflection of the activities in the lands and waters that surround it and lie upstream.

The program is intended to encourage communities and shoreline residents to understand the need to cooperatively manage and improve the water quality of all the water bodies within a watershed. In this way we can ensure that Rhode Island's bays, estuaries, and freshwater resources remain one of the state's great assets.

For more information or to volunteer, contact Linda Green, Program Director, (401)874-2905, lgreen@uri.edu or Elizabeth Herron, Program Coordinator, (401) 874-4552, emh@uri.edu.

Throughout June THE KICKEMUIT RIVER COUNCIL and THE LAURAL PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION will sponsor a **MARSH RESTORATION PROJECT**. Thanks to a grant from the Narragansett Bay Estuary Program and in conjunction with **SAVE THE BAY** a marsh restoration project will be completed at 47 Laurel Lane in Warren. Many hands are needed to plant native grasses, shrubs and more. Please call Janis Urban, at 401-245-4470 or see www.lauralparkimprovement.org for dates and further information.

June 4th (Saturday; rain day Sunday) **THE SALT PONDS COALITION** will host **PADDLE AND LEARN ABOUT THE GREEN HILL POND AND HAVE FUN DOING IT!** Did you ever wonder what is going on to address the water quality of Green Hill Pond? Join us!

The Salt Ponds Coalition is hosting an interpretive Kayak (and canoe) trip around Green Hill Pond. The purpose of this trip is to have fun and learn about the ecology and fisheries of the pond, water quality monitoring by the Pond Watchers, Green Hill/Block Island Project, and DEM. Finally representatives from the Horsley Witten Group will describe their work to develop a plan to reduce pollution in the pond watershed.

The guides for the trip will be Art Ganz, Marine Biologist and Vice President SPC; Betty Buckley, URI Graduate School of Oceanography, Lorraine Joubert, Director of the Block Island/Green Hill Project, Ralph Minopoli, Coordinator of the Pond Watcher program, Michelle Burnett, DEM Marine Fisheries Biologist, Fred Presley, DEM Project Coordinator and representatives of Hosley Witten Group.

Salt Ponds Coalition members, general public and invited guests are welcome to join us. We will meet at the Charlestown Town Beach Launching ramp (Charlestown Beach Road) at 8:30 Saturday June 4 (rain day June 5). We plan to be back by noon.

Our co sponsor for the trip is The Kayak Centre, 562 Charlestown Beach Road. If you wish to participate and need to rent a Kayak, reserve one for the ½ day by calling 364-8000. For further information: Call SPC at 364-3068

June 4th (Saturday 10AM to 2PM) The **WOOD PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION** will host a **KAYAK SAFETY PROGRAM** at the WPWA Campus at 203 Arcadia Road, Hope Valley, RI. Open to students ages 12 and up who know how to swim. WPWA will provide boats and PFDs. \$5 / member of the WPWA, \$7 / non-members. Contact Danielle Aube at 401-539-9017 or danielle@wpwa.org.

June 11th (Saturday at sunset) **WATERFIRE**, in conjunction with Waterfire, **FRIENDS OF THE MOSHASSUCK** will host and be present to share information and educate about the watershed. Event will take place in downtown Providence. For more information contact Greg Gerritt at gerritt@mindspring.com.

June 11th (Saturday 8AM to 10AM) **THE KICKEMUIT RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL** and **THE LAUREL PARK IMPROVEMENT ASSOCIATION** will host a **PHOTOGRAPHIC WILDLIFE ADVENTURE** at 50 Laurel Lane – Laurel Park Beach. Contact Kathleen Morrill at 401-247-4880 for additional information.

June 11th (Saturday 9AM to 3PM) The **WOOD PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION** will host a **CHIPUXET RIVER PADDLE** along the Pawcatuck River n Kingston, RI. The trip will start at Taylor's Landing, Rt 138, Kingston, RI and end at Biscuit City Landing, Rt 91 in Kenyon, RI. The trip is approximately 10 miles. PFD's required. \$5 / member of the WPWA, \$7 / non-members. Contact Danielle Aube at 401-539-9017 or danielle@wpwa.org.

June 12th (Sunday 1PM TO 4PM) **THE WAKEFIELD DOWNTOWN MERCHANTS ASSOCIATION** will hold a **BLOCK PARTY** and **CHAIRS FOR CHARITY**. The proceeds of this event will benefit **THE SAUGATUCKET RIVER COALITION'S**

OUTDOOR CLASSROOM to be constructed on the Saugatucket River in Wakefield. For more information call 783-6110.

June 16th (Thursday) **THE NARRAGANSETT BAY COMMISSION** will sponsor the Greater Providence Chamber of Commerce Breakfast at the Marriot where they will present NBC's Environmental Merit Awards to the regulated businesses / industries in the NBC district that have perfect compliance or have gone above and beyond state and federal requirements to be model companies. The Tse Tse Gallery will open an exhibit entitled "Clean Water Bash" displaying art done by children to support Clean Water and to celebrate the 25th Anniversary of the NBC. For information contact Paul Pinault at paul.pinault@narrabay.com

June 15 – 18 (Wednesday through Saturday) **BLACKSTONE EXPEDITION '05** Sponsored by **JOHN H. CHAFEE BLACKSTONE RIVER VALLEY NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR** from Worcester, MA to Central Falls, RI. Please go to www.blackstoneexpedition05.com for details on how to get involved or contact Barbara Dixon at 762-0250 or Barbara_Dixon@nps.gov.

June 18th (Saturday) **BLACKSTONE RIVER EXPEDITION** sponsored Rhode Island Rivers Day Celebration. Rhode Island Rivers Day will be held with a special emphasis on the historic Blackstone River, an American Heritage River. Events will include award ceremony, free public river tours, canoe & kayak rentals, dragonboat rides, and an Artisan, crafts and Business Expo. This festival is a culmination of four days of river awareness, the Blackstone River Expedition, that kicks off Wednesday, June 15 in Worcester. For more information about River's Day email info@tourblackstone.com. If you would like to participate as in the expo contact Frank Geary at 401-333-2123 or Barbara Dixon at 401-762-0250. Location: Central Falls Landing, Madeira and Broad Street.

June 18th (Saturday 9 am to 5 pm) **BLACKSTONE RIVER ANNUAL CELEBRATION** sponsored by the **BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL** at Central Falls Landing, Madeira Avenue and Broad Street in Central Falls. Annual celebration of Rhode Island's waterways with emphasis on the Mighty Blackstone River, an American Heritage River. Events include award ceremonies, free public tours on the hour from 1 to 4 pm, and environmental exhibit, artisan and business expo with music by Plain Folk. For more information contact Patricia McAlpine, Blackstone River Education Coordinator at 401-724-2200 or patti@tourblackstone.com. Additional information available at www.tourblackstone.com

June 18th (Saturday noon to dusk) **LIGHTING OF THE PAWTUCKET FALLS** sponsored by the **BLACKSTONE VALLEY TOURISM COUNCIL AND THE JOHN H. CHAFEE BLACKSTONE RIVER NATIONAL HERITAGE CORRIDOR COALITION** at the Slater Mill Historic Site, Roosevelt Avenue, Pawtucket, RI. For more information contact Ray Warner at 617-680-0535 or rwarner@casaligroup.com or see www.tourblackstone.com

June 18th (Saturday 9AM to 3PM) The **WOOD PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION** will host a **BISCUIT CITY TO RICHMOND PADDLE** along the Pawcatuck River in Kenyon, RI. The trip will start at Biscuit City Landing, Rt 91 in Kenyon,

RI and take out at the Richmond Fishing Access on Rt 91. Learn about historic mills along the river. The trip is approximately 8.5 miles, 3 portages, one area of class 2 rapids. PFD's required. \$5 / member of the WPWA, \$7 / non-members. Contact Danielle Aube at 401-539-9017 or danielle@wpwa.org.

June 18th (Saturday 10AM) The **BUCKEYE BROOK ASSOCIATION** will host a **CULTURAL HISTORY TOUR OF BUCKEYE BROOK**. Meet at the Knights of Columbus Hall parking lot and then drive down to Old Mill Cove to start the tour with a discussion of the old mill, then work our way over to the Shawomet Indian summer camp, then over to the old Warner sites (house and grave site), then stop by some other cemeteries for discussion about the early settlers. For additional information contact Stephan P. Insana, Buckeye Brook Watershed Council, 46 Waldo Rd, Warwick, RI 02889. Phone: 401-864-6112 www.buckeyebrook.org

June 19th (Sunday 1:30 to 4:30 pm) **THE RHODE ISLAND WILD PLANT SOCIETY** will host a **MOUNTAIN LAUREL WALK at ELL POND** in Hopkinton lead by Lisa Gould, Senior Scientist, RI Natural History Survey. The program fee is \$3 for members of the Wild Plant Society and \$5 for others; registration is required. Contact Erin Fournier, Director at 453-3777 or office@riwps.org. For additional information on the Wild Plant Society see www.riwps.org

June 20th (Monday at 5:00 PM) **THE WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL** will host an **URBAN PADDLING ADVENTURE**. The event will start at the landing on South Water St. and paddle up through Waterplace Park. We will also head out through the hurricane barrier on our return to get a view down Narragansett Bay. Although an urbanized stretch, we have seen red-tailed hawks, great blue herons, and many other birds in this segment of the river. The complete trip is about 3 miles. Canoes and kayaks are available on a limited basis - if you bring your own canoe or kayak, be sure to bring lifejackets for everyone who will be in the canoe. **Advance sign-up is required.** Please contact Lisa or Jenny at the Council at 401-861-9046 for more information.

June 22nd (Wednesday evening 6PM to 8:30PM) The **WOOD PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION** will host a **FULL MOON PADDLE** along the Wood River in Exeter, RI. The trip will start at the check station on Rt 165 in Exeter, RI and end at the WPWA campus at the Barberville Dam on Arcadia Road in Hope Valley, RI. The trip is approximately 4 miles. Bring a boat or rent one from the WPWA. PFD's required. \$5 / member of the WPWA, \$7 / non-members. Contact Danielle Aube at 401-539-9017 or danielle@wpwa.org.

June 23rd (Thursday at 11:00 AM) **THE RHODE ISLAND RIVERS COUNCIL** will hold it's annual **RIVERS COUNCIL AWARDS CEREMONY** at Waterplace Park in Providence. This year, the Rivers Council will honor local river heroes selected by Rhode Island's nine watershed councils. The event is free and open to the public. For information contact Meg Kerr at 401-714-2313 or megkerr@cox.net

June 25th (Saturday evening) **WATERFIRE** along the Moshassuck and Woonasquatucket Rivers in downtown Providence. The **FRIENDS OF THE MOSHASSUCK AND THE WOONASQUATUCKET RIVER WATERSHED COUNCIL** will have a table with

information on the rivers and organizations. For more information contact Greg Gerritt at gerritt@mindspring.com.

June 25th (Saturday 9AM to 1PM) The **WOOD PAWCATUCK WATERSHED ASSOCIATION** will host a **RICHMOND TO BRADFORD PADDLE** along the Pawcatuck River. The trip will start at the Richmond Landing on Rt 91 at the DEM Fishing Access and take out at the Bradford Access on Rt 91. The trip is approximately 11 miles. PFD's required. \$5 / member of the WPWA, \$7 / non-members. Contact Danielle Aube at 401-539-9017 or danielle@wpwa.org.

July 9th and 10th (Saturday and Sunday) **NARROW RIVER PRESERVATION ASSOCIATION** will be at the Wickford Art Festival explaining the need for protection of the environment, particularly, the Narrow River Watershed area. NRPA will also be selling raffle tickets for a HERITAGE " Featherlite" Kayak and paddle. The raffle supports the Awesome Education Program, College Scholarships and Science Fair Awards. For further information contact NRPA at nrpa@netsense.net.

For more information on the Rivers Council contact:

Meg Kerr
Chair, Rhode Island Rivers Council
Phone: (401) 714-2313
Email: megkerr@cox.net
web: <http://www.planning.state.ri.us/rivers/default.htm>